



04-22-03

3635

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: William L. Elderson  
Application No.: 09/888,897      Group Art Unit: 3635  
Filed: June 25, 2001      Examiner: Horton

For: BRIDGING SYSTEM FOR OFF-MODULE STUDS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATE

"Express Mail" label number EU990145589US

Date of Deposit April 21, 2003

I hereby certify that the following attached paper or fee

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL**  
**AMENDMENT**

is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Beth H. Retott

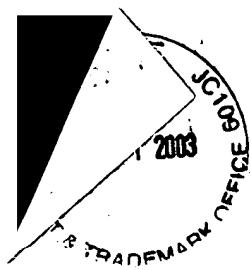
(Taped or printed name of person mailing paper or fee)

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NOTE: The label number need not be placed in each page. It should, however, be placed on the first page of each separate document, such as, a new application, amendment, assignment, and transmittal letter for a fee, along with the certificate of mailing by "Express Mail." Although the label number may be on checks, such a practice is not required. In order not to deface formal drawings it is suggested that the label number be placed on the back of each formal drawing or the drawings be accompanied by a set of informal drawings on which the label number is placed.

(Express Mail Certificate [8-3])



Attorney's Docket N. 010214

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For: BRIDGING SYSTEM FOR OFF-MODULE STUDS

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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APR 24 2003  
GROUP 3600

**AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL**

1. Transmitted herewith is an amendment for this application.

**STATUS**

2. Applicant is

a small entity. A verified statement:  
 is attached.  
 was already filed.  
 other than a small entity.

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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

**MAILING**

deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

**FACSIMILE**

transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
(type or print name of person certifying)

## EXTENSION OF TERM

**NOTE:** "Extension of Time in Patent Cases (Supplement Amendments) - If a timely and complete response has been filed after a Non-Final Office Action, an extension of time is not required to permit filing and/or entry of an additional amendment after expiration of the shortened statutory period.

*If a timely response has been filed after a Final Office Action, an extension of time is required to permit filing and/or entry of a Notice of Appeal or filing and/or entry of an additional amendment after expiration of the shortened statutory period unless the timely-filed response placed the application in condition for allowance. Of course, if a Notice of Appeal has been filed within the shortened statutory period, the period has ceased to run." Notice of December 10, 1985 (1061 O.G. 34-35).*

**NOTE:** See 37 CFR 1.645 for extensions of time in interference proceedings, and 37 CFR 1.550(c) for extensions of time in reexamination proceedings.

**3.** The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

(a)  Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 38 CFR 1.136  
(fees: 37 CFR 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:

| <u>Extension<br/>(months)</u>         | <u>Fee for other than<br/>small entity</u> | <u>Fee for<br/>small entity</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> one month    | \$ 110.00                                  | \$ 55.00                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> two months   | \$ 410.00                                  | \$205.00                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> three months | \$ 930.00                                  | \$465.00                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> four months  | \$1,450.00                                 | \$725.00                        |

Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

If an additional **extension** of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

(check and complete the next item, if applicable)

An extension for \_\_\_\_\_ months has already been secured and the fee paid therefor of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$

**OR**

(b)  Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension of time.

## FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 CFR 1.16(b)-(d) has been calculated as shown below:

| (Col. 1)   | (Col. 2)                             | (Col. 3)         | SMALL ENTITY           |                     |                        | OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| CLAIMS<br>REMAINING<br>AFTER<br>AMENDMENT                          | HIGHEST NO<br>PREVIOUSLY<br>PAID FOR | PRESENT<br>EXTRA | RATE                   | ADDIT.<br>FEE<br>OR | RATE                   | ADDIT.<br>FEE             |  |
| TOTAL 35*  | MINUS 44**                           | =0               | x9=                    | \$0                 | x18=                   | \$0.                      |  |
| INDEP. 7*  | MINUS 10***                          | =0               | x 42=                  | \$0                 | X84=                   | \$0..                     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM |                                      |                  | +130=                  | \$                  | +280=                  | \$                        |  |
|  |                                      |                  | TOTAL<br>ADDIT.<br>FEE | OR                  | TOTAL<br>ADDIT.<br>FEE | \$0.                      |  |
|  |                                      |                  | \$0                    |                     |                        |                           |  |

- If the entry in Col. 1 is less than entry in Col. 2, write “)” in Col. 3.
- If the “Highest No. Previously Paid for” IN THIS SPACE is less than 20, enter “20.”
- If the “Highest No. Previously Paid for” IN THIS SPACE is less than 3, enter “3.”  
The “Highest No. Previously Paid for” (Total or indep.) is the highest number found in the appropriate box in Col. 1 of a prior amendment or the number of claims originally filed.

**WARNING** “After final rejection or action (§ 1.113) amendments may be made cancelling claims or complying with any requirement of form which has been made.” 37 CFR § 1.116(a) (emphasis added).

Complete (c) or (d), as applicable)

(c)  No additional fee for claims is required.

**OR**

(d)  Total additional fee for claims required \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### FEE PAYMENT

5.  Attached is a check in the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Charge Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

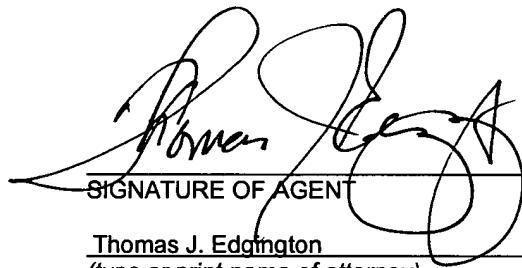
## FEE DEFICIENCY

NOTE: If there is a fee deficiency and there is no authorization to charge an account, additional fees are necessary to cover the additional time consumed in making up the original deficiency. If the maximum, six-month period has expired before the deficiency is noted and corrected, the application is held abandoned. In those instances where authorization to charge is included, processing delays are encountered in returning the papers to the PTO Finance Branch in order to apply these charges prior to action on the cases. Authorization to charge the deposit account for any fee deficiency should be checked. See the Notice of April 7, 1986, (1065 O.G. 31-33).

6.  If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Account No.
7. 11-1110

### AND/OR

If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Account No.  
11-1110



SIGNATURE OF AGENT

Reg. No.: 34,324

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Thomas J. Edgington  
(type or print name of attorney)

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010214  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit 3635  
Examiner Horton

In re application of : BRIDGING SYSTEM  
William L. Elderson : FOR OFF-MODULE  
Serial No. 09/888,897 : STUDS  
Filed June 25, 2001 : Group No. 3600

RECEIVED  
APR 24 2003  
GROUP 3600

**AMENDMENT**

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222-2312

April 21, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated January 29, 2003 (the "Official Action") issued in connection with the above-identified application (the "subject application"), and to place the subject application in better condition for allowance, please amend the subject application as follows:

**In the Specification**

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning on line 22 of page 21 as follows:

--As shown in Fig. 21, a system for bridging/spacing studs which may or may not be irregularly spaced is shown. Through each stud 450 having a standard conduit punch-out 453